

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~7~~9 in which the cartridges are
2 distributed through conventional retail and/or on-line distribution channels.

1 9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method defined in claim 7~~ A method of refueling a di-
2 rect oxidation fuel cell used to power an electrical appliance, the method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 A. providing a substantially full, user-removable fuel cartridge which is inte-
5 grated with the appliance, in which the cartridges are keyed so that only cartridges having
6 corresponding electrical and/or mechanical keys can supply fuel to said fuel cell or fuel
7 reservoir, and said fuel cartridge being coupled to said fuel cell or to a fuel reservoir and
8 conforming substantially to a standardized specification;

9 B. removing said fuel cartridge from said appliance when said fuel cartridge
10 is substantially exhausted or at another time; and

11 C. installing a substantially full fuel cartridge in said appliance.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~7~~9 in which exhausted car-
2 tridges are disposed of.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~7~~9 in which exhausted car-
2 tridges are refilled.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~7~~9 in which exhausted car-
2 tridges are recycled.

Please add the following new claims:

- 1 13. (New) The method of refueling a direct oxidation fuel cell as defined in claim 9,
2 including the further step of providing as said electrical key, circuitry in said cartridge
3 that responds to a signal from a fuel cell.

- 1 14. (New) The method of refueling a direct oxidation fuel cell as defined in claim 9,
2 including the further steps of:
3 A. configuring a transponder on said cartridge that emits a signal of a particu-
4 lar frequency; and
5 B. providing a receiver coupled to said fuel cell configured to receive signals
6 from cartridges whose transponders emit the correct signal response, whereby access is
7 provided to supply fuel to said fuel cell from such cartridges as emit said correct signal
8 response, and not other cartridges.